



FORESTS, PARKS & RECREATION  
**VERMONT**



AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# H.128 An act relating to removing regulatory barriers for working lands businesses

Danielle Fitzko, Commissioner Forests, Parks and Recreation

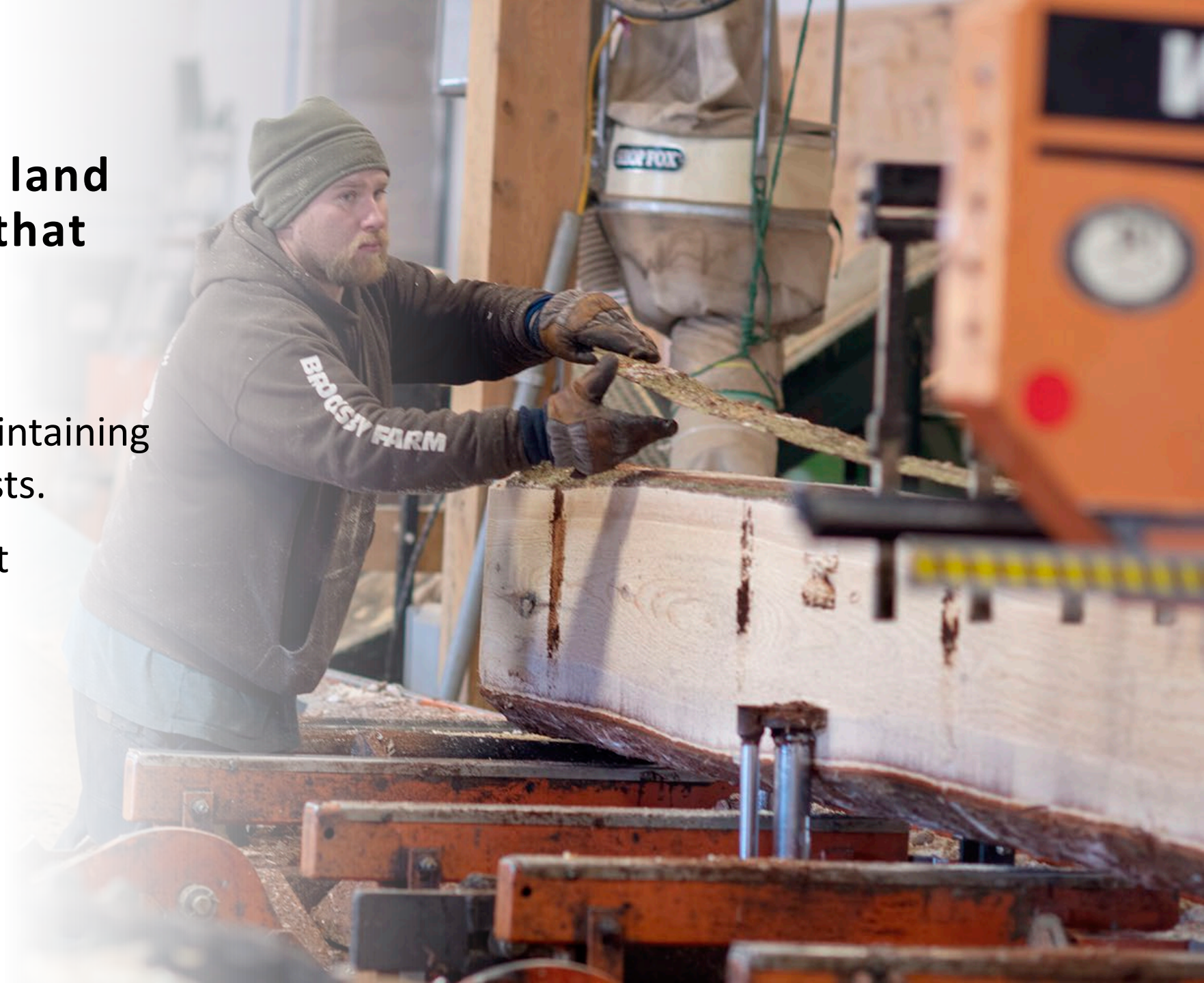


WELCOME



## **ACTION 4: Promote legislation and other land use planning efforts that**

- Recognize the value of maintaining intact and connected forests.
- Promote sustainable forest management.
- **Support forest products enterprises.**



# REBUILDING MARKETS AT HOME

---

- **Externalized** processing of forest-derived commodities.
- Must be **transported** farther to remaining markets.
- More reliance on **exports** and our forests will be subject to more **volatility** in the global marketplace.
- Manufacturing capacity has been **declining**.
  - From 1990 through the early 2000s: **150-200 mills**.
  - 2021, just **38 mills** reported operating in Vermont.
- Logging below 2,500 is exempt from Act 250, but the **processing of the commodities from forestry operations is not.**



# H.128 – SUPPORTS FOREST PRODUCTS ENTERPRISES

**Focus is on Act 250: State Land Use and Development Law**

- Section 2: Mitigation of Primary Agricultural Soils
- Section 3: Permit Exemption For Sawmills And Primary Processing Of A Certain Size



# MITIGATION OF PRIMARY AGRICULTURAL SOILS

- If you **trigger** jurisdiction, you must address 10 criteria.
- Criteria 9(b): **Protection of primary agricultural soils.**
  - Avoid, Minimize, and **Mitigation**
  - Mitigation ratio is based on where:
    - In designated areas: 1:1 ratio
    - Outside of designed areas: No less than 2:1, but no more than 3:1
- Exempt: **Industrial Parks**
- Include in the exemptions **“Wood Products Manufacturer”** for their conservation effect and in-state processing.
- Supported in the Natural Resources Board Report.



# PERMITS REQUIRED, EXEMPTIONS

- Currently exits as a **'Minor'** application – no hearing unless requested by an interested party.
- Proposing to **'Exempt'** instead of minor application.



# PERMITS REQUIRED, EXEMPTIONS

---



- Previous recommendations based on **daily truck deliveries**:
  - **‘Exempt’**: < 1 truck delivery per day
  - **‘Minor’**: 1 – 3 truck deliveries per day
- Consider using **‘Wood Products Manufacturers’**





**FORESTS, PARKS & RECREATION**

**VERMONT**



**AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

